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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 17, 2000

Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

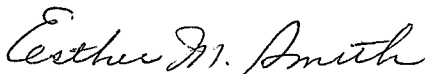
Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland is a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan will take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the economic and environmental impact of this land conversion. The plans need to look for ways to reduce the loss of productive, rich farmland.

Farmers are willing to voluntarily work with Cal-Fed on habitat conversion. If cal-Fed will work cooperatively with the farmers, the land can continue to help feed our continuously increasing population and provide habitat at the same time.

Farmers cannot provide habitat nor feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water will not have to be taken away from food producing farms.

Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it. Public hearings, to explain the Cal-Fed plans and how people, including farmers, will be affected, need to be held before those plans become final

Sincerely,



Esther M. Smith